

CHAMBERS, S. 2009.

Birds of New Zealand - Locality Guide. 3rd edn.

Arun Books, Orewa, New Zealand.

Banded dotterel: pp 153-154.



BANDED DOTTEREL.

Family Charadriidae

Species *Charadrius bicinctus*

Common names Banded Dotterel, Double-banded Plover (Australia)

Status Endemic

Abundance Common

Size 200 mm (cf sparrow 145mm, New Zealand Dotterel 250mm)

Habitat Both a coastal and inland bird frequenting sandy beaches, shellbanks, braided rivers, well cropped pastureland and sometimes ploughed paddocks. A regular visitor to airport runways. It breeds along beaches, shellbanks and the wide riverbeds of the South Island. After the breeding season birds move to the coast in northern areas of the North Island where they congregate in harbours and estuaries such as the Manukau Harbour, and at Miranda in the Firth of

Thames.

New Zealand range Generally absent from the Taranaki area in the North Island and Fiordland in the South Island. Otherwise well spread. A large number leave New Zealand and migrate to south and eastern Australia wintering along its coastline. This migration is similar to that of the Australasian Gannet and the White-fronted Tern. Some birds also turn up in Norfolk Island, Lord Howe Island and Fiji.

Discussion Considered a close relative of the Australian Red-capped Dotterel (*C. alexandrinus*) with which hybridisation has been reported. Flocks of Banded Dotterel might contain vagrant Mongolian Dotterel (*C. mongolus*), Ringed Plover (*C. hiaticula*) and Red-capped Dotterel.

Description – male in breeding plumage (above)

Forehead White patch above bill with black patch above white. **Head** Brown with black line from bill to under eye. **Upperparts** Brown. **Chin** White. **Under-chin band** Black with white under it. **Breast-band** Rich chestnut. **Underparts** White.

Description – female in breeding plumage

Overall appearance Similar to male but paler with the lower breast-band being narrower and less distinct.

Description – immature bird (below)

Overall appearance Tends to be paler than the adult bird and lacks the breast bands. Has a distinct fawny appearance. Shoulder tabs brown.

Description – wintering bird

Overall appearance Both sexes are dull, retaining a partial upperbreast band. By July full breeding plumage becomes apparent.

Conspicuous features

- Smaller and more petite than the New Zealand Dotterel.
- Double bands in breeding plumage birds.

Conspicuous characteristics

- Banded Dotterel have the run and pause feeding habit of all plovers.
- Often seen in large flocks standing motionless in ploughed paddocks.

Call A loud “pit pit” and a trilling “che-ree-a-ree”.

Nest A scrape on the sand. Up to 3 greenish, black-spotted eggs are laid.

Where to find – North Island

North Auckland – Weiti (Wade) River on the sandspit across from the old wharf. P. 294.

South Auckland – Kawakawa Bay and Miranda. P. 302.

Bay of Plenty – Matata lagoons. P. 320.

Manawatu – Manawatu Estuary. P. 336.

Manawatu – Palmerston North along Manawatu River. P. 336.

Wellington – Waikanae Estuary. P. 339.

Where to find – South Island – Stewart Island

Canterbury – Lake Ellesmere. P. 351.

Canterbury – Ahuriri River. P. 355.

Otago – Aramoana on main beach. P. 359.

Southland – Fortrose Estuary and Waituna Lagoon. P. 364.

Southland – The Eglinton Valley. P. 370.

From P. 158

Differences between Mongolian Dotterels and Banded Dotterels when not in breeding plumage

- The Mongolian Dotterel has a brownish crown and head. The Banded Dotterel has tawny tonings.
- The Mongolian Dotterel has dark brownish eye surrounds. The Banded Dotterel is tawny around the eye.
- The Mongolian Dotterel is darkish brown on the upperparts. The Banded Dotterel tends to tawny colouring.

Difference between Mongolian Dotterels and Banded Dotterels when in breeding plumage

- The Banded Dotterel lacks the dark eye.
- The Banded Dotterel has double bands on its breast with a clean white

